(b) The stocks of saleable steel with Steel Authority of India Limited and other integrated steel plants at the end of 1992 were as under:

	Stocks as on 31-12-92 (Prov.)
Steel Authority of India Ltd.	8.68 lakh tonnes
Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd.	0.62 lakh tonnes
Tata Iron & Steel Company Ltd.	1.68 lakh tonnes
Visakhapatnam Steel Project	1.59 lakh tonnes
Total:	12.57 lakh tonnes

(c) The steps taken or proposed to be taken by the public sector steel plants to reduce their stock|inventory include re-working of the product-mix to match the market demand, strengthening of distribution network, extension of certain credit facilities, exports, etc.

Closure of secondary steel making Units

616. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 700 secondary steel making units are on the verge of closure due to recession in the market;

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard; and

(c) the details of steps taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Government have not received reports regarding large scale closure of secondary steel making units. However, it is a fact that there is some sluggishness in the demand for steel items.

(b) and (c). In order to provide relief to the secondary steel sector, the import duty on steel melting scrap which is the major raw material for the secondary steel sector was reduced from 35 per cent to 10 per cent in January, 1992. As and when the demand for steel items picks up, the performance of the secondary sector will also improve.

Modernisation of IISCO

617. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision regarding modernisation scheme of IISCO plant at Burnpur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.